

INHALER CASE COVER

Cross Reference to Related Applications

This application claims the benefit of U.S. provisional Serial No. 60/456,400, filed March 20, 2003.

Background of the Invention

This invention concerns inhaler and more particularly, cases or covers for inhalers. Asthma sufferers often carry inhalers to be handy for use in case of an asthma attack. These consist of a replaceable pressurized canister of a medicament which is inserted in a casing having a tubular portion open at the bottom to receive the canister which is positioned with the aerosol plunger against the top of the casing. An angled spout extends laterally from the upper side of the tubular portion. When the protruding bottom of the canister is pushed up, the plunger is depressed and a spray is emitted confined and directed by the spout. The spout itself has a cap which is readily placed over the open end of the spout.

The inhalers must be kept handy when being carried for quick use, particularly by children in the event of an asthma attack.

Children are also often interested in making the inhaler more appealing in appearance since it is conspicuously carried as by a neck strap.

Various covers have heretofore been provided for these inhaler casings which provide an attachment or support.

The angled spout of the inhaler makes installing a cover over the inhaler case difficult. The spout cap also should desirably be secured lest it be lost after removing the same in

1 preparation for use.

2 While tethered caps have been proposed, the securement of the cap to the strap
3 and cover has not been convenient.

4 It is the object of the present invention to provide an attractive cover for an inhaler
5 case which is easily installed and removed and also provides a convenient securement of the
6 inhaler spout cap.

7 8 Summary of the Invention

9 The above object and other objects which will be understood upon a reading of
10 the following specification and claims are accomplished by a cover made from a moderately
11 stretchable fabric material, including a tubular main section configured to receive and snugly fit
12 to the body portion of the inhaler case. The bottom of the tubular is open to allow easy insertion
13 of the case. A securement such as a ring and strap or ribbon passed through grommets or
14 hemmed openings in the material is attached to the lower portion of the tubular section.

15 At the top, an opening is formed inclined down along the upper part of one side of
16 the tubular main section to allow the inhaler spout to protrude.

17 The tubular main section can thus stretch to accommodate the spout as the cover
18 is pulled onto the case using the ring as a convenient pull, the spout then pushed out through the
19 opening.

20 The tubular portion can also be of a wrap around design, secured with mating
21 hook and loop elements to likewise be easily installed.

22 A cap hood is also provided having one side sewn onto one side of the top of the

1 opening therein which is sized to readily allow insertion of the inhaler spout cap and to be held
2 therein to prevent loss of the cap.

3 The inhaler case and spout are thus completely enclosed except for the protruding
4 bottom of the canister, presenting an attractive appearance.

5 Thus, an attractive, convenient to install inhaler cover is provided.

6 7 Description of the Drawings

8 Figure 1 is a pictorial view of a first embodiment of an installed inhaler cover
9 according to the invention.

10 Figure 2 is a pictorial view of the installed cover shown in Figure 1 with the spout
11 cap and cap hood hinged open.

12 Figure 3 is a pictorial view of a second embodiment of an inhaler cover according
13 to the invention, using a wrapped tubular portion.

14 Figure 4 is a pictorial view of the cover shown in Figure 3, with the cap and cap
15 hood hinged back and the tubular portion partially unwrapped.

16 17 Detailed Description

18 In the following detailed description, certain specific terminology will be
19 employed for the sake of clarity and a particular embodiment described in accordance with the
20 requirements of 35 USC 112, but it is to be understood that the same is not intended to be
21 limiting and should not be so construed inasmuch as the invention is capable of taking many
22 forms and variations within the scope of the appended claims.

1 Referring to the drawings and particularly Figures 1 and 2, the cover 10 includes a
2 tubular main portion 12 which is constructed of a sleeve made of a moderately stretchable fabric
3 material sewn together along a vertical seam 14 extending up from the bottom edge and seams 16
4 forming a closed upper end.

5 A hem 18 is sewn around the open lower end. A cylindrical inhalant casing lower
6 portion 20 is enclosed by the cover tubular portion 12. The casing lower portion can receive a
7 pressurized medicament canister 21.

8 A strap loop 22 is sewn into the hem 18 capturing a ring 24 through which a
9 carrier strap 26 can be passed.

10 The main cover portion 12 has an inclined opening 30 extending down at an angle
11 from its upper end around which is sewn a hem.

12 A cap hood 32 sized and positioned to selectively be fit over the opening 30, and
13 is secured on its upper side to the upper edge of the opening 30 by a short strap 34.

14 The opening 30 is located and sized to allow the casing spout 21 to protrude
15 therefrom.

16 The size and shape of the cap hood 32 is such as to allow insertion of the inhalant
17 spout cap 36 which is thereafter retained therein.

18 Using the ring 24 as a grip it is easy to pull the cover 10 down over the inhalant
19 casing 20 until the casing spout 21 reaches the opening 30, and allow protrusion of the casing
20 spout 21 therethrough. The cap hood 32 is quickly emplaced over the cap 36 to complete the
21 installation.

22 Figures 3 and 4 show a second embodiment of a cover 38 according to the

1 invention, which also includes a tubular main portion 40, which is wrapped around a canister 20
2 and secured along a separable seam 42 by strips 44, 46 of hook and loop fasteners.

3 A carrier strap or ribbon 48 is looped through openings near the lower edge of the
4 tubular main portion 40.

5 A angled cutout 50 forms an opening when the tubular main portion 38 is
6 wrapped onto the canister 20.

7 A cap hood 52 is tethered by a strap 54 sewn to the closed upper edge of the
8 tubular portion 38. The inhalant cap 36 is received and retained in the hood 52.

9 Thus, the inhalant casing 20 is completely enclosed within the covering to present
10 an attractive appearance, and the cap 36 is safely held when removed by flipping the cap hood 52
11 back.

12 At the same time, the cover 38 is readily installed onto the casing 20 without the
13 use of adhesives or fasteners.